



## **TURTLE CONSERVATION**

As above, conservation is vital at Desroches and projects currently underway on the island include a turtle programme, land erosion control, and eradication of vermins and exotic plants. All share one mutual goal which aims to see the entirety of the island as one protected area.

Turtles, birds and giant tortoises are the main focus of the islands long term sustainable management strategy, and interactive conservation experiences are hosted by the island's resident conservation managers to all Desroches guests.

The nesting habits of two turtle species which reside at Desroches, the hawksbill and green turtle, were documented by means of a survey conducted in 2008. The survey identified the habitual needs of these amazing creatures which in turn helped ensure the turtles and their habitats were afforded the appropriate long term protection during development of the island and thereafter.

Desroches management work together with Island Conservation Society (ICS) personnel stationed on the island to monitor any prohibited fish net activity in the vicinity of the island to decrease turtle mortality numbers which has also become apparent alongside some poaching activity.

The Desroches turtle programme will ensure adequate protection of the resident hawksbill and green turtles on Desroches is provided, which will increase the island's turtle numbers, better the health of both terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and provide a valuable attraction for visitors too.

During the months October through to January, Desroches welcomes hawksbill nesting activity on the north eastern side of the island which also houses the island's lighthouse. Due to the

hawkbills sensitivity to sound and light this part of the island is not being developed, ensuring guests amazing hawkbill sightings day or night.

Home to 150 green turtles, guests have a good chance of coming across one of these beauties at Desroches during the months February to September. Vegetation growth is key for the green turtle when selecting a nesting spot at night, but being less sensitive to sound they may lay anywhere on the island. The choice is theirs, although they tend to favour the south west beaches.

Desroches guests are encouraged to join the daily surveys of turtle layings and are more than welcome to be involved in the research process. Should you wish to find out more about Desroches conservation projects, please contact Desroches Conservation Managers, Carl and Lisa on xxx.

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